

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 13 immediately following the heading “CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS” with the following amended paragraph:

The present application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/928,949, filed August 13, 2001, which claims the benefit of Provisional Application Serial No. 60/224,491, filed August 11, 2000 ~~and entitled Vertebral Plasty Reduction Device~~, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.